Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2012/08/30 : CIA-RDP05-01507R000100050077-6

CR/NE
INCOMING

LEBANON

FADLALLAH, Muhammad

25X1

DTG: / FRD: .2. . .5.6. .8
IMMEDIATE
ADV NE 16502 STATE

83 2685614 SCD PAGE 001 NC 2685614
TOR: 1616472 NOV 83

OO RUEAIIB
ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH
STU6856
DE RUEHC
DE RUEHBE #2864/01 3221554
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 181543Z NOV 83
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4623
INFO RUEHAM/AMEMBASSY AMMAN 1575
RUEHEG/AMEMBASSY CAIRO 1432
RUEHDM/AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS 2110
RUEHJM/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 1705
RUEHJI/AMEMBASSY JIDDA 1909
RUEHRH/USDLO RIYADH 1286
RUEHTV/AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 1967
RUEHLD/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0286
RUFHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0436
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 0403
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC
RUEKJCS JCS WASHDC
RUEKDGA/CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
RHCLDVE/CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON UK
RUFRGU/COMSIXTHFLT
RUFRMMA/CTF SIX ONE
RUFRMKA/CTF SIX TWO
RUFRMDA/CTF SIX ZERO
BT
C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 12864

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PINS, PREL, LE, US, FR, IS
SUBJECT: REACTION TO FRENCH AND ISRAELI AIR STRIKES

REF: (A) BEIRUT 12808 (B) BEIRUT 12810

1. (C-ENTIRE TEXT)

2. SUMMARY: THE NOVEMBER 16 ISRAELI AIR STRIKES HAVE PROVOKED INDIGNANT CONDEMNATIONS IN LEBANESE SHIA AND OPPOSITION CIRCLES, MUCH OF IT FOCUSING ON ALLEGED U.S. COMPLICITY IN THE ATTACK. THE FRENCH AIR STRIKES OCCURRED TOO LATE ON NOVEMBER 17 FOR REACTION TO APPEAR IN THE NOVEMBER 18 BEIRUT PRESS, BUT VICE PRESIDENT OF THE HIGHER SHIA ISLAMIC COUNCIL SHAMS-AD-DIN HAS CONDEMNED THESE ATTACKS TOO. LEBANESE EDITORIALISTS HAVE EXPRESSED THE FEAR THAT A ROUND OF TIT-FOR-TAT REPRISALS IS LIKELY, AND SHIA LEADERS ARE ONCE AGAIN EXPRESSING FEARS THAT THE SOUTHERN SUBURBS WILL BE THE NEXT TARGET. END SUMMARY.

3. REACTION TO THE ISRAELI ATTACK WAS VERY STRONG

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DLE
F-5
6F-1

83 2685614 SCD PAGE 002 NC 2685614
TOR: 1616472 NOV 83

IN THE BAR'LABAAK AREA AS REPORTED IN REF A. THE NOVEMBER 18 BEIRUT PRESS REPORTS THAT MOST BUSINESSES IN THE CITY CLOSED ON NOVEMBER 17. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT BEFORE THE FRENCH STRIKE, THE CASKETS OF "8 "MARTYRS" (INCLUDING THREE IRANIANS) KILLED IN THE RAID WERE CARRIED THROUGH THE STREETS OF THE TOWN TO THE SQUARE IN FRONT OF THE SERAIL, WHERE SPEECHES WERE MADE IN THEIR HONOR. ACCORDING TO INDEPENDENT AN-NAHAR, SHEIKH [illegible] A LEADER OF THE PRO-IRANIAN HIZBALLAH FACTION, DECLARED ON THIS OCCASION THAT "WE ARE PREPARED TO OFFER MILLIONS OF MARTYRS TO LIBERATE OUR LAND." HE WAS ALSO QUOTED AS SAYING THAT "AMERICA BEARS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ATTACK ON LANTA CAMP (ONE OF THE ISRAELI TARGETS). IT IS TRYING TO HIDE BEHIND ITS STATEMENT THAT IT DID NOT KNOW OF THIS (I.E., THE ATTACK) IN ADVANCE... WE WILL TEACH THEM HOW TO REACT AND WE WILL MAKE THEM TASTE BITTERNESS." AN-NAHAR ALSO REPORTED THAT A COMMUNIQUE (SIGNED SIMPLY THE "MUSLIM 'ULAMA" WAS CIRCULATED IN THE BAR'LABAAK AREA. THE COMMUNIQUE DECLARED THAT "WHAT HAPPENED IN JANTA...CONFIRMS THE PERSISTENCE OF AMERICA IN PURSUING ITS AGRESSIVE, IMPERIALIST POLICY AND PROVES THAT ISRAEL AND THE PHALANGE ARE DANGEROUS MICROBES PLANTED IN THIS ISLAMIC REGION TO BREAK UP THIS ISLAMIC BODY."

4. INDIVIDUALS AND POLITICAL GROUPS OUTSIDE THE BAR'LABAAK AREA HAVE ALSO CONDEMNED THE ISRAELI STRIKES. ACCORDING TO LEFTIST AS-SAFIR, AMAL MILITARY COMMANDER ABU 'AMWA (RIFA'AT/A MANZA) HAS STATED THAT "THESE STRIKES ARE A LINK IN THE CHAIN OF THE CONSPIRACY WHICH INTENDS TO SILENCE ALL VOICES OF OPPOSITION TO THE MAY 17 AGREEMENT." AN-NAHAR REPORTS THAT AN ORGANIZATION CALLING ITSELF THE "ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS LEADERS GROUPING" HAS CONDEMNED THE ISRAELI ATTACK, PROCLAIMED NOVEMBER 19 A DAY OF MOURNING, AND SCHEDULED A RALLY AT A MOSQUE IN SHIYYAH IN THE SOUTHERN SUBURBS OF BEIRUT ON THAT DAY. ALSO ACCORDING TO AN-NAHAR, THE NATIONAL SALVATION FRONT HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT IN WHICH IT DECLARED THAT "THE ZIONIST ENEMY HAS AGAIN REVEALED ITS UGLY FACE AND HAS TRIED TO TERRIFY US INTO SURRENDER BY ATTACKING US WITH AMERICAN MADE PLANES PROTECTED BY THE U.S. FLEET OFF THE COAST OF LEBANON."

5. THE SUNNI MUFTI FOR MOUNT LEBANON, (MUHAMMAD ALI JUSU) HAS ALSO CRITICIZED THE U.S. FOR THE ISRAELI RAID. ACCORDING TO AS-SAFIR, HE HAS ASKED "WHY THE VOICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC STATES HAS NOT BEEN RAISED

F/DLE

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
TAGS: PINS, PREL, LE, US, FR, IS
SUBJECT: REACTION TO FRENCH AND ISRAELI AIR STRIKES

IN PROTEST AGAINST ISRAEL'S AIR RAIDS AND ITS MEASURES IN SOUTH LEBANON." HE REPORTEDLY ADDED THAT "AMERICA HAS TO TURN ITS EYE TO THIS REGION TO DEFEND PEACE. HOWEVER, IT HAS DEFENDED ONLY ITS OWN INTERESTS AND THOSE OF ISRAEL. IF THIS SITUATION CONTINUES, RESISTANCE WILL INCREASE AND AMERICA WILL FIND THAT ITS ENEMIES HAVE MULTIPLIED."

6. VICE PRESIDENT OF THE HIGHER SHIA ISLAMIC COUNCIL, MUHAMMAD MAHDI SHAMS-AD-DIN, WAS ABLE TO ISSUE A STATEMENT CONDEMNING THE FRENCH ATTACK IN TIME TO MAKE THE NOVEMBER 18 PAPERS. HE IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT "THE JUSTIFICATIONS OFFERED BY THE FRENCH FOR THIS ACTION ARE INSUFFICIENT AND UNACCEPTABLE. WE DEMAND THAT FRANCE REVEAL TO THE PUBLIC THE INFORMATION

F/DLE

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2012/08/30 : CIA-RDP05-01507R000100050077-6

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2012/08/30 : CIA-RDP05-01507R000100050077-6

WHICH CAUSED IT TO TAKE THIS ACTION." EDITORIALISTS IN THE BEIRUT PRESS HAVE GENERALLY EXPRESSED MISGIVINGS ABOUT WHAT THE FRENCH AND ISRAELI RAIDS PORTEND FOR LEBANON'S FUTURE. MICHEL ABU JAWDAH WRITING IN INDEPENDENT AN-NAHAR NOTES THAT THE FRENCH ATTACK CLOSELY RESEMBLED IT'S ISRAELI PREDECESSOR, "WHICH IS SAID TO HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT IN CLOSE COORDINATION WITH THE U.S." ABU JAWDAH EXPRESSED THE FEAR THAT LEBANON MAY WITNESS AN ESCALATING CYCLE OF REPRISAL AND COUNTER-REPRISAL AS LONG AS THE U.S. AND SOVIET UNION DO NOT NEGOTIATE. AN EDITORIALIST IN LEFTIST AS-SAFIR COMMENTS THAT THE FRENCH ACTION WOULD SEEM TO JUSTIFY ISRAELI REPRISAL RAIDS IN LEBANON, WHICH FRANCE HAS ALWAYS CONDEMNED IN THE PAST. HE TOO FEARS THAT THE FRENCH RAID WILL OPEN THE DOOR FOR TERRORISM AND COUNTER-TERRORISM. ANOTHER EDITORIALIST IN AS-SAFIR WRITES THAT THE FRENCH AND ISRAELI ATTACKS ARE SMALL ACTIONS INTENDED FOR HOME CONSUMPTION.

HE EXPECTS THAT THE U.S. IS PREPARING FOR A MUCH BIGGER MILITARY OPERATION.

7. AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE FURTHER REPRISALS, SHIA LEADERS HAVE ONCE AGAIN EXPRESSED FEARS THAT AN ATTACK ON THE AMAL CONTROLLED AREAS OF THE SOUTHERN SUBURBS OF BEIRUT IS BEING PREPARED. BEIRUT HIZBALLAH LEADER SHAYKH MUHAMMAD FADLALLAH IS REPORTED BY AS-SAFIR TO HAVE DECLARED [illegible] HE CALLED THE MEDIA CAMPAIGN TO PORTRAY THE SOUTHERN SUBURBS AS A CENTER FOR TERRORISM IS INTENDED "TO CREATE THE PROPER INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ATMOSPHERE FOR EFFORTS TO PUT AN END TO THIS CENTER OF TERRORISM." SHIA MUFTI ABD AL-AMIR QABALAN, WHO IS CLOSE TO AMAL LEADER BARRI, HAS EXPRESSED SIMILAR FEARS. AS-SAFIR REPORTS THAT HE HAS DECLARED THAT THE SOUTHERN SUBURBS ARE NOT A BASE FOR TERRORISM. "THERE ARE ALSO NO MISSILES OR FIGHTERS FROM OUTSIDE THE AREA PRESENT IN THEM," HE SAID.

8. COMMENT: THE ISRAELI AND FRENCH RAIDS HAVE OCCASIONED A LOUDER OUTBURST OF ANTI-AMERICAN FEELING, ESPECIALLY FROM SHIA, THAN WE HAVE HEARD FOR SOME TIME. WE EXPECT THAT TENSIONS IN THE SOUTHERN SUBURBS OF BEIRUT WILL BE PARTICULARLY HIGH AS RESIDENTS OF THE AREA ANTICIPATE AN AMERICAN REPRISAL FOR THE OCTOBER 23 BOMBING. BARTHOLOMEW

END OF MESSAGE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2012/08/30 : CIA-RDP05-01507R000100050077-6